

REMARKS

In the Office Action of March 24, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1 through 20 under 35 USC 103 (a) under either Darrow in view of Norris et al. It is believed that these rejections have been overcome by the above amendments submitting all new claims in the case and the following arguments. Likewise, the objection to claim 19 has been negated by the amendments.

I. Claim Objections

The objected phrase set forth in claim 8 has been deleted from its new corresponding claim 28.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) Based On Darrow In View of Norris

Claims 1 through 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) based on Darrow in view of Norris. We respectfully disagree.

The primary reference to Darrow is directed to the age old commercially successful Monopoly game. It is well known and is the most popular of all board games. However, there are many significant differences between the present invention and the game Monopoly. Although the Examiner accurately paraphrases Darrow's broad teachings, original claim 1 of the present invention specifically requires at least one die having fourteen facets, six being major, eight being minor facets, with additional limiting language. The Examiner references Figure 5 to establish that Darrow teaches the claimed fourteen facet die. However, Figure 5 of Darrow shows a six-sided die and not the six major facet, eight minor facet die specifically set forth in claim 1.

As explained in the present specification these minor facets are color coded or otherwise have significance. Even as blanks, they would represent zeros and, therefore, result in some turns resulting in no movement whatsoever. Not only does Darrow fail to teach or render obvious the claimed invention with respect to these dice, but Darrow is totally absent any suggestion that play turns would be governed by anything other than 2 through 12, depending upon the outcome of the role of two conventional dice.

In addition, Darrow fails to set forth any action spaces or event spaces on the corners that have corresponding event cards. These are further specific claimed limitations.

Also, present invention, as claimed, has two different sets of event cards with at least two different event spaces, absent in the Darrow teachings.

Darrow fails to teach an octagonal playing board, as set forth in the present invention claims. This provides eight different corners of the present invention game board with eight possibilities of actions and/or events, instead of the conventional four corner square board of Darrow.

Darrow also fails to teach historical markings of Egyptian symbols and structures.

Further, Darrow fails to have minor unit structures in the form of tomb tokens or major unit structures in the form of Egyptian pyramids.

With the exception that Norris has a pyramid with ball-bearing spheres with indicia and generally teaches a game with an Egyptian theme, all of the above deficiencies of Darrow are also deficiencies of Norris. In other words, Norris does not overcome any of the aforementioned deficiencies of Darrow, except for a general teaching of an Egyptian theme.

For all the above reasons the rejections of the claims based on Darrow in view of Norris are not viable and should be withdrawn.

In addition, although the applicant and undersigned take exception to the rejections, amendments have been made to further distinguish the present invention cited prior art. Specifically, new claim 21 is directed to an octagonal board and new claim 34 specifically includes the die limitations set forth in original claim 1.

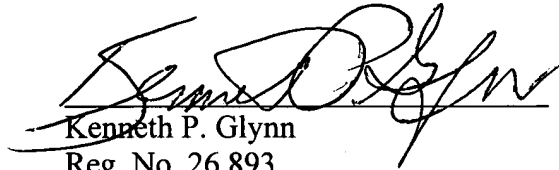
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is urged that claims 21 through 40 should be allowed.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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enclosures
cc: George L. Nagle
EM RRR ED 421095821 US


Kenneth P. Glynn
Reg. No. 26,893
Attorney for Applicant
24 Mine Street
Flemington, NJ 08822-1598
(908) 788-0077 Tele
(908) 788-3999 Fax



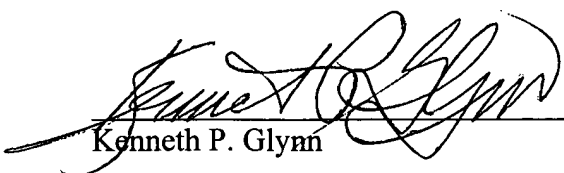
THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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GEORGE L. NAGLE : BENA B. MILLER
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For: EGYPTIAN PYRAMID BOARD GAME : FPI-102A

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Kenneth P. Glynn

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(Docket No. FPI-102A)